**Thursday, October 28, 2010**

**Politicians Can Shove It**

            It’s almost November, and to a lot of people, that means election season. Campaign signs litter front lawns, air-brushed faces of candidates smile smugly down from billboards, and political commercials air every few seconds. What shocks me is how dirty politicians will fight. Take this [article](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20101028/ap_on_el_gu/us_ri_governor) about Frank Caprio, a Rhode Island democrat who showed blatant disrespect by telling President Obama to “shove it,” all because Mr. President did not endorse his candidacy.

When most people hear the word “politics,” they probably think of men in pressed business suits and bad toupees, attempting to look dignified while politely arguing with each other from behind a microphone. But times have definitely changed.

Today, we have interesting selection. There’s Christine O’Donnell, who probably spends an equal amount of time bleaching her teeth and trying to convince me that she is, in fact, me. There’s South Carolina governor Mark Sanford, with his Argentinean affair. And of course, there’s the “shove it” guy. Do these politicians have any dignity anymore?

Instead of working to improve their country, or even their community, these leaders spend their time name-calling, lying, arguing, blaming, or buying designer tuxes. They need to get back to the issues, and stop focusing on tearing apart their opponents (or even the president.) That’s just not true leadership.

**Friday, August 12, 2011**

**[Life Lessons from Jane Eyre](http://hotbeansandsugar.blogspot.com/2011/08/life-lessons-from-jane-eyre.html)**

*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte is one of the most famous classics of all time. It can teach us many lessons about our own lives by showing us the troubled life of the main character, Jane. The book combines the simple idea of a man and a woman meeting and falling in love with the more complicated fact that they are nearly twenty years different in age. The strange and unusual relationship between the two heroes of the book draws the reader in, creating in the reader a twisted acceptance of the deep feelings the two very opposite parties have for each other. The contrast between Jane and her beloved Mr. Rochester shows us that details like wealth, connection, and even age don’t matter as much as we often try to make them when it comes to love. Sometimes people should look past things that don’t matter so that they can focus on the things that do.

Although the story of the poor little orphan girl named Jane begins in a rather gray atmosphere, it brightens when Jane, at the age of eighteen years, decides that she is master of her life, and that she is about to change her gloomy life situation. The book, although primarily focused on the relationship that develops between Jane and the rich Mr. Rochester (the owner of the manor where Jane becomes governess), contains a very modern underlying theme: individuals have the ability to control their life circumstances. Jane could have gone with the “flow” her life naturally developed. She could have lived out her days as a modest, polite, and proper teacher at Lowood Academy, perusing its few dull volumes for enjoyment. Jane took control of her life though, and ended up marrying the man she came to love, enjoying all the comforts life at the time could offer. Jane teaches us that our deepest dreams aren’t necessarily as far out of reach as we think. We simply have to *try* to reach them.

**Sunday, July 10, 2011**

**[my nose isn't growing](http://suchasinlovely.blogspot.com/2011/07/short-rant.html)**

"And some day, I'm going to be a *real* boy!" said Pinocchio.

Oh Pinocchio, how I sympathize with you. Some day, I'm going to be a *real woman.*But according to the [Dove "Real Beauty"](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/8757597/ns/business-us_business/t/dove-ads-real-women-get-attention/) campaign, [Glamour](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-1210814/Lizzie-Millers-Glamour-magazine-shoot-How-models-picture-shook-world-flabby-tummy-all.html), and [Madrid, Spain](http://articles.cnn.com/2006-09-13/world/spain.models_1_association-of-fashion-designers-skinny-models-pasarela-cibeles?_s=PM:WORLD), my lower-than-average BMI\* disqualifies me.

It's not that I *don't* think Dove's efforts to ~~increase their profits~~ get women to have better self-esteem and body image were admirable. In a society that is obsessive over youth and beauty, a reality\*\* check like that is necessary. To hear "Hey, you're really not that despicable to look at." must be a refreshing change from the usual "Buy our product so you won't hate yourself as much!"

Dove's mission was to "broaden the definition of beauty." Their version of beauty is not broader. It isn't more inclusive. It's just *larger*; the featured women ranged in size from "6 to 14". I guess that's one interpretation of "broad" though, hah. But while this new definition is broader, Dove's still got standards-- your skin\*\*\* must be flawless and taut, smooth perfection.

Somehow, excluding certain body types doesn't seem to be *the best* way to start a "body image revolution" (Glamour). While Madrid is banning thin models from the fashion industry, Glamour is celebrating an unsightly fat roll; neither promotes an "image of beauty and health", or do anything to prevent the common "self-critical eye" that many women and girls have, respectively.

[](http://img.slate.com/media/1/123125/2065969/2111765/2123729/050801_arc_doveAdGroup_ex.jpg)

\*as measured by the [CDC's](http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/dnpabmi/) site

\*\*It should be noted that Unilever, the maker of Dove, is sticking with *unreal* women for their [AXE commercials](http://dailycaller.com/2011/05/27/axe-and-wild-stone-deodorant-ads-too-sexy-for-india/).

\*\*\*Unilever also sells [skin-lighting products](http://www.unileverme.com/brands/personalcarebrands/fairandlovely.aspx), for those you who hate your ethnicity.